



Office of Special Programs

Overview

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) recently established the Office of Special Programs to coordinate several federally funded transportation improvement programs. Transportation Enhancements, Safe Routes to School, and Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality are federal reimbursement programs, not grant programs. The Transportation Enhancements (TE) Program funds twelve types of transportation-related activities that are designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, historic, and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure. TE was first funded through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) in 1991. Federal legislation has continued to support TE funding. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) was passed in 1998 and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) was enacted in 2005 to continue to provide financial support for TE.

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program resulted from the passage of the SAFETEA-LU legislation. SRTS encourages youth and their families to choose walking, cycling, and other active ways to get to and from school by funding several types of infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects. The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program was also established by ISTEA. CMAQ is concerned primarily on reducing emissions in designated areas of the United States. The Scenic Byways & Highways Program focuses on designating roads as scenic on the state level and facilitating opportunities for these state Scenic Byways or Highways to apply at the national level for designation and project funding. Kentucky has 17 state and 3 national Scenic Byways and Highways. The OSP also includes a Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator who is responsible for working with several different agencies and constituents to educate the public about bicycle paths and pedestrian walkways and to encourage safety on roadways.

The Office of Special Programs is responsible for the coordination of the following: Transportation Enhancements, Safe Routes to School, Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality, Scenic Byways & Highways, and Bicycle/ Pedestrian.